Accident of MIG Aircraft

500. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of MIG aircraft which have been lost during this year so far;

(b) what is the value of these aircraft;

(c) the number of trainee pilots who have lost their lives;

(d) what are the reasons for the loss of only these MIG aircraft;

(e) whether Government are planning to drop MIG aircraft from the IAF fleet of air defence system; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) During this year 2001-02 (till 17th July, 2001), 05 MIG Aircrafts have been lost.

(b) the total loss on account of these aircrafts is approximately Rupees 40.23 Crores.

(c) None.

(d) The Courts of Enquiry have been completed in respect of four cases in which Human Error (Aircrew) was found to be the main cause in three and Technical Defect in one. One enquiry is still in progress.

(e) and (f) Although MIG-21 is an ageing aircraft, requiring regular maintenance checks, it remains fully airworthy. Therefore, the MIG-21 is likely to stay in Indian Air Force, albeit in smaller numbers, for a longer period than envisaged earlier.

Kargil Review Committee

501. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the Kargil Review Committee Report; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.